



MONTEREY NEWS

April 2003
VOLUME XXXIII · Number 4



The Town

March Madness

A string of warm sunny days has gently melted away a surplus of snow. It just seeps away into groundwater, wetlands, and streams, exposing a soggy blanket of autumn leaves.

A Visit from Our Rep

Smitty Pignatelli, our newly elected State Representative, visited on March 17. He introduced his District Aide, Sharon Keenan, who will work in the Lee office. "I didn't realize how bad things were until I got there (to Boston)," he said. "Local aid cuts by the state will be closer to 20 percent including education.

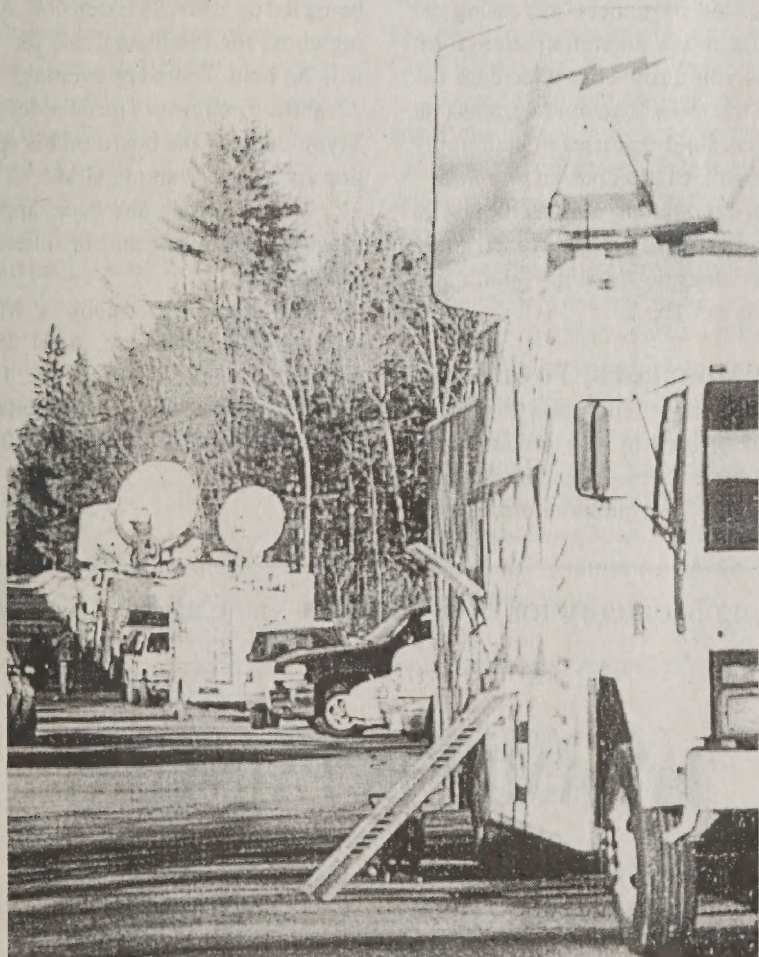
Mitigation funds are probably only for one year." Raising taxes is not being discussed as an option. Even going back to the 5.9 percent rate would not generate enough revenue to cover the shortfall. Pignatelli stated that communities will increasingly have to rely on local taxation to fund services and education. The Select Board brought up the mushrooming cost of health insurance coverage, to individuals as well as state and local employees, including teachers. Changes in Medicare funding could imperil Fairview Hospital, which everyone agreed is essential to the area. Rep. Pignatelli's office is located in the Airolti Building at 45 Railroad St. in Lee. Telephone 243-5534, Fax. 243-5533.

We Have a Budget . . . Almost

The themes touched on during Rep. Pignatelli's visit were present throughout the town budget process. Uncertain economic times are making themselves felt even here. While Monterey is currently in stable financial condition, a consensus emerged over the month of March, urged on by Town Treasurer Barbara Gauthier, to proceed with caution. Consequently the budget which developed reflected a small increase over last year's spending, with no new capital commitments. Muriel Lazzarini noted that it seemed appropriate to delay purchasing new equipment in a year when we will be forced to lay off teachers.

Putting It All Together

At a meeting on March 3, Finance Committee members Dan Moriarty and George Emmons suggested that the Select Board "back into the budget" by setting a spending limit before considering individual spending requests. They



Steve Pullen

Television trucks lined up beside firehouse to cover plane crash on Mount Wilcox. See stories on pp. 6 and 20.

spoke in favor of maintaining a level tax rate. Rick Mielke was present to report on the School Committee's efforts to put together a budget which will not decimate the teaching staff or programs. A fair amount of wrangling between towns in the district is typical, and since the state contribution to education and transportation remains unclear it's surprising that the process went as well as it did. Occurring simultaneously is the selection process for a new superintendent and negotiations with teachers over salaries and health insurance coverage. Although there will be staff reductions, especially among paraprofessionals, Mr. Mielke is optimistic that a creative approach will enable the school district to maintain its current standards. The Select Board was very clear in withholding support from any budget which included the closing of the Monterey Kindergarten.

Another element in the discussions was how to implement the Salary Committee guidelines in giving raises. The budget includes one percent raises for several positions, including Administrative Assistant and Police Chief. Higher raises for the Highway Department were built into the increases in the Maintenance Budgets, of which salaries account for about half. What the actual raise will be will be discussed at a board meeting with the Finance Committee. Jon Sylbert pointed out that there are two issues to resolve in setting the rate for Highway Department raises. One is to bring salaries into line with surrounding towns and also to set an appropriate rate for the longer term. Maynard Forbes noted that in every case members of his department were available 24/7 to deal with our long winter. We're all grateful for that. The winter maintenance budget increase reflects the cost this year. The board declared a snow emergency on March 17 to enable the town to draw more funds.

Health Insurance looms over all as the town's commitment is pegged at

90/10. As the state considers reducing the required percentage to 75/25, it may also be possible for the town to amend its contribution.

Transfer Station

The operating costs of the Transfer Station have grown by close to 20 percent this year, to almost \$7,000 a month, about \$80,000 for the year. The fees paid for stickers totalled \$33,000. Barbara Gauthier pointed out that although we may not be able to break even on the Transfer Station, we should generate enough revenue to cover more of the expense. Working with the Center for Ecological Technology and Director of Operations Forbes, Bonnie Jurgenson has undertaken development of a comprehensive plan for operation of the Transfer Station. Longer term, Mr. Forbes is working on the site plan. In the short term there are several options which might serve the town. Increasing or instituting fees for some bigger items such as white goods, furniture, and computers, increasing the sticker fee and/or instituting some form of pay as you throw could decrease expense to the town. The bylaw states that every household that uses it shall apply for a Transfer Station permit.

Transfer Station summer hours go into effect on April 6: Sundays, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 8 a.m.–1 p.m.; Saturdays, 8 a.m.–1 p.m.

Scenic Mountains, Town Hall

Conservation Commission Chair Chris Blair was pleased by the turnout at the hearing for the Scenic Mountain Act on a stormy night. Good questions made for an

interesting program. The Scenic Mountain Act will be on the warrant for the annual town meeting. If it passes, hearings will be held to formulate regulations as required by the law. A meeting for the Town Hall Notice of Intent will be held April 1, after which construction may begin.

Over and Out

The Select Board commented on the many letters received in support of maintaining the Town Beach in its current location. They also wondered when the Public Access Committee will report on alternate locations for a boat ramp.

The Community Development Planning Committee meeting was rescheduled to Monday, March 31. As per a request from Planning Board member Claudia Weldon, \$6,000 will be reallocated to engage the services of a consultant who specializes in rural planning and land use issues, including town zoning bylaws. The town has been chosen as part of a study of the Housatonic watershed being led by UMASS Extension. A meeting about the biodiversity of the region will be held Thursday evening, March 27, at the Firehouse. Tree Warden Roger Tryon updated the board on his application for a Tree Planting Grant.

Nick Fredsall has been appointed Electrical Inspector and his alternate is James Kern.

The annual Informational Meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 25, at 7 p.m. at the Monterey Firehouse. The annual town meeting will take place on Saturday, May 3, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

— Michele Miller

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May 3 Town Election Slate

Several town officer positions are being contested in this year's town election on Saturday, May 3, the same day as the annual town meeting, but as usual several positions are uncontested. Note that the last day to register for voting in the town election is Saturday, April 12; mail-in forms are available at the post office.

Candidates for the uncontested seats are as follows; in each case the candidates are endorsed by both the Democratic and Republican caucuses.

Board of Health (2 seats open)

Stephen Enoch (incumbent, 3 years)

John Makuc (2 years)

Cemetery Committee (3 years):

Linda Thorpe (incumbent)

Library Trustees (3 years, 2 seats)

Kathy Bracken (incumbent)

Carol Edelman (incumbent)

Moderator (1 year)

Mark Makuc (incumbent)

Park Commission (2 seats open)

David Crane (incumbent, 3 years)

Leroy Thorpe (incumbent, 1 year)

Planning Board (3 years)

Claudia Weldon

Town Clerk (3 years)

Barbara Swann (incumbent)

Tree Warden (1 year)

Roger Tryon

The contested seats are listed in the following columns, along with with background information submitted by the candidates.



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Select Board Candidates (3-year term)

Michele Miller (Independent)

I am running as an Independent for the seat being vacated by Muriel Lazzarini.

It has been my great joy and privilege to live in Monterey since 1975. During that time I have been involved in many aspects of town life, as a volunteer, citizen, student, artist, and parent.

Since June of this past year I have reported on meetings of the Select Board for the Monterey News. In this capacity I've attended most board meetings and have had a close up view of the concerns, processes, and responsibilities of the board.

Our local government is democracy in action, as close as we get to having our votes count. I have great respect for this tradition and would like to serve on the board.

I've been self-employed since 1975, when I opened Suchebe Bakers in Lenox. Starting in 1987 I operated the Boiler Room Cafe in Southfield, and later in Great Barrington, until its closing in 1997.

As an owner and manager of several small businesses, I've been responsible for finances, personnel, and the bottom line, not to mention marketing, scheduling, menus, and dealing with the public and purveyors. Small town Select Boards face a similar variety of tasks.

For the past four years I worked as a freelance flight attendant in corporate aviation, travelling around the world. This experience deepened my appreciation of the special place we call Monterey.

In the coming weeks, before our annual town meeting, I plan to walk throughout Monterey to introduce myself. I look forward to meeting you.

Michael Storch (Democratic and Republican nominee)

My name is Michael Storch and I am running for a vacant position on the Select Board. I am very pleased to have been endorsed by both the Monterey Republican and Democratic Party caucuses.

After forty years in the photographic industry I retired in 2002. My wife, Lois, and I moved full-time into the home in Monterey which we've owned since 1995. Lois and I have been vacationing and working summers in the Berkshires since we were kids and always felt that we would eventually make the Berkshires our permanent home. That dream came true when we moved to Monterey.

As soon as I had the opportunity, I became a regular attendant at the Monday morning Monterey Select Board meetings, where I have listened and learned about the day to day operations of our town. Currently I am one of five members of the Salary Committee, and I serve as the Transportation Coordinator for the Local Emergency Planning Committee for Monterey.

Both in the business world and as an elected School Board member in Valley Stream, Long Island, I have had years of direct experience in implementing large but fiscally responsible budgets. In my role as a sales-and-people manager I have successfully managed expenses, motivated personnel, and maintained cordial professional relationships. I'm prepared to bring the same standards of civility and motivation to the Select Board.

I come to you with no allies, no enemies, and no bias for or against any individual, group, or political agenda. I will bring an unbiased, rational, and open mind to the deliberations of the Select Board. My guiding principle has always been to listen and study situations and problems by seeking input from all relevant sources. I know from experience that I can work well with all types of groups and individuals, and look forward to being able to bring to Monterey a fair and just perspective as needs arise. I would welcome this chance to serve the people of Monterey.

(candidates continued on next page)

Board of Appeals Candidates (5-year term)

Louise Burns (Republican)

My name is Louise Burns and I have lived in Monterey since 1957, first as a summer resident, then as a full-year resident (for thirteen years).

Monterey is a very special place to me; it has character and beauty that need protecting. For these reasons I seek election to the Monterey Board of Appeals.

I have held a variety of offices in different clubs and organizations over the years. I assisted in rewriting the By-laws of both the Mercy Hospital auxiliary and the Valley District Dental Women Society, while serving as president. Here I learned that the writing of By laws must be approached with careful deliberation, each word and phrase written after much thought and debate. I have attended many board of Appeals meetings and learned much about the appeals process.

I believe that my experience with these matters has prepared me for a position on the Board of Appeals, while my unique perspective as a resident of Monterey offers me the vision of a vital community.

Fred Chapman (Democrat)

I am running for the open seat on the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). I have been nominated for that position by the Democratic Caucus, although I am registered as an Independent.

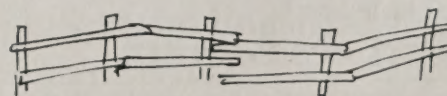
Having attended many ZBA hearings in past years, as both a member of the Selectboard and of the Planning Board, I am very familiar with the procedures. I have a deep and enthusiastic interest in the issues and ideas with which the ZBA is involved, and I feel I have the ability to fairly evaluate all the competing interests which may come before the board.

The ZBA is a board that generally only meets when its services are needed by a citizen who would like to build something not allowed as of right by the Town's Zoning Bylaws, or by someone wanting to use property in a manner not ordinarily permitted by those bylaws. The ZBA may, according to certain criteria, issue special permits, or even a variance, if the circumstances warrant it. Such permits are often granted to an applicant who is appealing a decision of the Town's Zoning Enforcement Officer, who is also the Building Inspector. Therefore, decisions of the ZBA are very important for the individual applicant yet also quite important, as far as the possible impact on the Town.

I have served the Town as a member of the Selectboard for six years and the Planning Board for seven years and have a clear understanding of the way our Town works. My thorough familiarity with Monterey's Zoning Bylaws would be of particular value for the ZBA.

My education in both architecture and law would aid in comfortably asking questions of the lawyers and architects who, almost invariably, represent and accompany applicants before the ZBA.

Therefore, the combination of my experience, training, and strong concern about Monterey's future qualifies me well as a potential member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Thank you.



Board of Assessors (3 years)

Rita Backhaus (Democrat)

My name is Rita Backhaus and I was asked to run for the Board of Assessors, on behalf of the Democratic Committee, this year. After careful consideration I accepted the nomination. I have been a resident of the town for the last twenty years, and my husband Gareth and I have two children, Samantha and Ashley.

I have a well-rounded business background, having worked at the former Great Barrington Savings Bank, in the mortgage department, the accounting department and in financial service, for many years. I left the bank to start a family and to be home for my children. As my children became more independent, I became a Realtor and worked for several agencies before starting my own agency, Berkshire Estates Realty, here in Monterey.

If I am elected, I will look forward to bringing my knowledge of properties to the Town and helping the board in any way I can.

Riccardo Boehm (Republican)

I may not be the best known or best looking candidate running for the Board of Assessors in Monterey, but, I am well qualified and hard working, and I want to make a contribution to our community.

I grew up in the Philippines and Japan and first came to the Berkshires as a student at Harvard in the late 1950s, visiting hospitable classmates who are my friends to this day. After several years in business in the Far East and twenty-five more as a professor of business management and finance at the City University of New York, I was fortunate to be able to return to Massachusetts, to be with a growing circle of friends and enjoy the country lifestyle I always yearned for.

I currently serve as a director of the South Council of the Berkshire Board of Realtors and for the past five years have been a real estate agent with Berkshire Country Properties, which has allowed me to become involved in a number of local property development activities. Last year, I was happy to be able to purchase and reopen the Monterey General Store.

(cont. >)

CHARLES J. FERRIS

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My wife, Helen, and I live on Main Road at Stevens Lake. We have two children: Carlo, serving in the Peace Corps in Uzbekistan, and Pilar, a former Simon's Rocker living in New York City. In addition to my family and friends, special pleasures include a loyal Corgi, "Holly," a 1956 Packard, and great conversation at the coffee club in the Monterey Meetinghouse.

I have a track record as an effective manager with excellent organizational skills, an MBA from Columbia University, and solid training and experience in real estate valuation and appraisal. The most important thing about property assessment is that owners believe that the process has been impartial and that no one is paying more than a fair share to support Monterey's budget needs. I am very aware of the ethical questions that can come up for anyone serving on this board. I have consulted the Office of Public Integrity in Boston, and I promise to seek their counsel and excuse myself from any situations where there may be even an appearance of conflict of interest.

I would be honored to serve on the Board of Assessors, and promise to look out for the common interests of all the citizens and property owners with attention and integrity. I ask my Monterey neighbors—from both parties—to please support me in this election. Thank you.

Finance Committee (3 years)

Michael Feltser (Republican)

Permit me to introduce myself.

My name is Michael Feltser, and I am running as a candidate for the Finance Committee. I first came to Monterey in 1978, have been a full-time resident since 1988, and at present I am retired.

During my work experience which included eleven years as an executive for the JCPenney Co., I was responsible for the development, installation, and maintenance of budgets for the departments which I managed.

I believe my experience will enable me to be of service to the Finance Committee. I know and respect the current members of this committee, and am confident that I could work with them in harmony.

Since I am retired, I am able devote the time required to fulfill the position to its fullest extent. I am anxious to be of service to the town I have become most fond of, and would appreciate your support.

Dan Moriarty (incumbent, Democrat)

I am requesting your support in my bid for reelection to the Finance Committee. I have served three terms and am proud of my many accomplishments, which include working closely with the

Select Board on projects such as revamping the town computer system and initiating a town database. I also initiated the first town quarterly informational meetings and worked hard to establish the first uniform compensation plan for all town employees. I have worked with members of the Finance Committee and the Select Board to create the first five-year budget, which will anticipate major capital expenses and help stabilize our tax base.

I am in the advertising field and have been a summer resident of Monterey since 1984 and a permanent resident since 1991. I am married thirty-five years to my wife Marcy and have raised three boys, whom many of you know. I currently travel frequently; however I have made it my goal to be present at all important finance meetings and have contributed many common-sense ideas.

We are now operating in a tight economic environment, and if reelected I intend to look aggressively at the budget and see where we can make appropriate cuts. I am asking for your vote so I may continue to participate on your behalf.



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Planning Board (5 years)

Joyce Scheffey (Democrat)

I have lived in Monterey for twenty-one years, ten of which I served on the Monterey Planning Board. I am very interested in helping the present board with their plans for the future, and am anxious to get back into harness and work for the town once again.

As many of you know, controlled growth, care for our precious environment, affordable housing, and working on a Town Master Plan are among my major concerns.

Currently the Planning Board is working with "Community Development Plans," a state-funded program made available through the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. This program addresses, specifically, affordable housing, economic development, transportation, and open space preservation. Further, a UMASS team (many of you will remember the grand Open Space Plan developed by a similar team back in the '70s) has selected Monterey as one of two Berkshire towns to assist in the development of a new Open Space Plan. An Open Space Plan is an integral part of a Master Plan and a monumental task. I know, because I worked for a year on the OSP, finally adopted in 1985, and thought it would kill me. We are extraordinarily lucky to have the help and guidance of the UMASS group to help us this time round.

Also, the Planning Board has plans to work with a rural planning consultant to take a comprehensive look at our existing zoning bylaws, and to update and align them through community input (emphasis on community input) and P.B. commitment (let me emphasize that too) to ensure the bylaws address current growth issues and other community concerns.

On another matter, I think perhaps it might behoove us to once again look into the question of multifamily housing or "Accessory Dwelling Units" to address growth, the shortage of affordable housing, and dwindling land. I have studied the Great Barrington ADU bylaw passed at their annual town meeting last year, and although their situation is obviously not ours, they have addressed much of what is. We failed the two-thirds vote needed for a version of such a bylaw many years ago, and I think the town might be interested in reopening at least a discussion of such an idea.

So, there is much activity in the works right now, and much work to be done. People willing and having time to do that work are hard to find. I am, and hope you will elect me to the Monterey Planning Board once again.

Wayne Burkhardt (Republican)

No statement was received from Mr. Burkhardt.

Plane Crash in Monterey Fire Department Plays Major Role in Rescue

As darkness began to drop temperatures well below zero on the late winter afternoon of Monday, March 3rd, for the second consecutive night, almost eighteen hours had gone by since the Piper Cub airplane carrying the seven members of the Ferris family had gone off the radio screen Sunday night about 7:30 p.m. and crashed on Mount Wilcox. At the Monterey Firehouse exactly two miles away, at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, a hastily convened but anxiously awaited press conference conveyed to a national audience some news about their fate. The raging gusts of winds that prevented air search had subsided, and the inside of the meeting room was heated up by flood lamps that cast shadows of tripod cameras on the ceiling and focused a spotlight of attention on State Police spokesperson Lt. Marion McGovern, as well as on our Monterey Fire and Police Chiefs.

As the details of the story began to unfold, TV command center trailers clustered around the building, crammed with monitors and topped by satellite dishes pointing to the heavens, began to relay the announcement that the mother, father, and two sons had perished, but that

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three boys miraculously had been rescued.

The rescue, a result of a three-state coordinated effort, was commended by Lt. McGovern for overcoming a fifteen-hour delay in finding the plane, high snow drifts around the plane, a mountainside unfriendly to radio signals, and, surprisingly, no cell phone service. She related details of the actual rescue efforts after a Civil Air Control plane out of New Hartford, Conn., picked up a weak beacon signal from the downed craft and spotted a small boy standing in shallow water.

Soon New York State helicopters from Colonie were able to drop paramedics down through the treetops, while Monterey first responders closed in on snowmobiles from the nearest access on Brett Road, which was still far away. The Sheffield Fire Department and Environmental Police worked with Monterey, while more volunteers from the Connecticut Civil Air Patrol, with handheld electronic locaters pointing the way, guided around obstacles, and down slippery slopes. Monterey was the first to arrive at the wreckage with tools to cut open a hole in the fuselage to extract the injured father, who later died of a heart attack, commonly caused by severe hypothermia.

The young survivors, after some time in intensive care, have all been released from hospital. No less than ten Monterey volunteers directly participated in the search and rescue; they will not be named because I have so often heard them say, "We were just doing our jobs!"

— George Emmons



Firehouse scene during rescue operation (see also story on p. 20)

Monterey Plane Crash Spotlights Search and Rescue Communications

When the plane that crashed on Mount Wilcox on March 2nd was removed from the scene that had witnessed so much human pain and suffering, a flight cell phone was found nearby. New Hampshire relatives of the family in the plane reported the phone had been used to call them with the news the family were going to try to make it back before school started the next day. After the crash, if they had been able to dial 911 their position might have been vectored, but there is no cell phone tower in Monterey, even though Mount Wilcox is the only elevation considered acceptable in the zoning bylaws for wireless service facilities, approved at a special town meeting in 1998. Objections to towers are generally for scenic, historic,

or environmental reasons which have been overcome by camouflage as long as they comply with the FCC's regulations concerning emissions. Cell phone service today in Monterey is a public safety issue, almost an accident waiting to happen . . . again.

What would have happened to the telephone if people had voted it down because they didn't like the sight of telephone poles. Meanwhile taking no further chances for the future, the Monterey Fire Department has already won a state grant to pay for two satellite phones, and is working on getting a global positioning system to expedite search and rescue, also through a grant. March 2nd was a night to remember for most and a night to forget for the few survivors. If only the tragic chain of events could have been different, and for that to happen, better communications are the wireless wave for the future.

— George Emmons

Michele Miller

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Earth Day at Berkshire Fish Hatchery

The Berkshire Fish Hatchery will celebrate Earth Day 2003 with a full slate of activities for the whole family on Saturday, April 26, and Sunday, April 27.

Saturday, April 26

10 a.m.–noon: Nature walk
10 a.m.–3 p.m.: Hatchery tours
Noon–1 p.m.: Lunch
1–3 p.m.: Plant & tree planting
1–3 p.m.: Fish identification & animal tracking
1–3 p.m. Make a bird feeder

Sunday, April 27

10 a.m.–noon: Learn to fish & cast
10 a.m.–3 p.m.: Hatchery tours
Noon–1 p.m.: Lunch
1–3 p.m.: Aquatic watch & collection
1–3 p.m.: Nature walk

There will be displays on the aquaponics tank, wildlife, conservation, recreation and safety, and more. Bring the whole family!

The Berkshire Fish Hatchery is located on Hatchery (River) Road in New Marlborough (just across the Monterey line). Information is available at 413-528-9761.

Coffee Club Sponsoring Easter Egg Hunt and Playground Benefit Dinner

The Coffee Club of Monterey is continuing its good works for the community by sponsoring its second annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 20, at 1 p.m. on the Library lawn. The event is for children ten years and younger.

The Coffee Club is also sponsoring a New England Boiled Dinner on Friday, April 25, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children, with all proceeds going to the New Marlborough Central School Playground Fund. Tickets are available through Linda Thorpe, 528-2164, and Theresa Amstead, 528-1853.



The Hunger Mountain Boys: Kip Beacco on fiddle, Ted Weber on guitar

Hunger Mountain Boys at Church Coffee House

This winter a series of old time “coffee houses” have been held monthly in the Fellowship hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse. These evenings of live music by local musicians have been great fun. The home-baked goodies and refreshments make it a great night out. There is a collection taken at the door of which 75 percent goes to the musicians and 25 percent goes to the Heifer Project International, a charity that sends livestock and agricultural expertise to third world peoples in need. Come on out on Saturday, April 26, at 7 p.m. and hear the Hunger Mountain Boys, who will be celebrating the release of their new CD.

The Hunger Mountain Boys are an old-time, traditional duet featuring the

sounds of guitar, fiddle, mandolin, and dobro—just two at a time of course! Based out of the Great Barrington/Monterey area, the duet features Ted Weber on guitar, dobro, and vocals, and Kip Beacco on fiddle, mandolin, guitar, and vocals.

Concentrating on the brother-style duet harmony singing of such classics as The Monroe Brothers, The Louvin Brothers, and The Stanley Brothers, and reaching even further back in time to the twenties- and thirties-style fiddle and guitar sounds of Arthur Smith, The Georgia Yellow Hammers, and other fiddle string-band sounds, The Hunger Mountain Boys are determined to walk the authentic, traditional pathway while contributing to its wealth of material by adding their own inventive creations along the way.

— Steve Pullen

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3rd Annual "What the Heck Is the Lake Garfield Assoc. and Why Should I Give a Hoot?" Quiz

1. The stated mission of the LGA is:

- A. To proliferate an abundance of ludicrous quizzes.
- B. To reinstate Prohibition. (Hic! Hah.)
- C. To name lakes after animated cartoon animals.
- D. To be superior to Lake Superior.

E. "To protect, preserve and enhance Lake Garfield, for the use and enjoyment of all members of the Monterey Community." A large measure of the environmental aspect of our mission encompasses monitoring the health of the Lake by staying current and in touch with various local, State and Federal programs and interacting with their administrators. Our annual LakeFest extravaganzas best demonstrate the enjoyment part of the equation! Those among us who were neither imprisoned in the Gulag, nor off on a two-year world cruise, will remember the fun of LakeFest 2001 and 2002. A full day and evening of free events, for young and old alike: dancing, swimming boating, games and crafts, potluck dinner, music, fireworks, and more. WOW! LakeFest 2003 is scheduled for Saturday, August 16.

2. LGA headquarters are located:

- A. In the heart of downtown Monterey in the towering LGA building.
- B. In an abandoned refrigerator carton under the Brooklyn Bridge.
- C. At www.lakegarfield.org.
- D. On the island opposite the town beach.
- E. On the Islets of Langerhorn.

3. LGA's auspicious accomplishments include:

- A. Stocking the lake with weed-eating weevils (try saying that ten times, fast, with a mouth full of peanut butter) which have devoured tons of weeds, saving swimmers from being tangled and strangled by impetuous vegetation.
- B. Complicity in the mysterious disappearance of multitudes of Tech pundits

and stockbrokers who, because there was no introduction of weed-eating weevils, were tangled and strangled by the aforementioned vegetation.

C. Dissemination of information relevant to the Lake and its environment, including, but not limited to, proposals concerning a public boating launch and the controversy over drawdown.

D. Arranging for one spectacular sunset after another all summer long.

E. All the above, except for B and D.

4. LGA was formed:

A. When Firmament was first formed from Chaos.

B. When Firmament first became a Java application.

C. In sixteenth-century Spain, when Philip the Second's court was ordered to affect the King's lisp, thus forever changing the Castilian language

D. Somewhere around 1996.

E. In twenty-first century America, when everyone in the Bush Administration began saying "Nuke-u-lar," thus forever changing the English language.

5. Membership in the LGA is limited to:

A. The five members of the Security and Exchange Commission.

B. Canadians who are either bandleaders on the Tonight Show or members of the cast of "Saturday Night Live."

C. Direct lineal descendants of Edna St. Vincent Millay.

D. Us guys and our families.

E. Anyone and everyone who loves our great Lake Garfield, which includes and subsumes answer D, above.

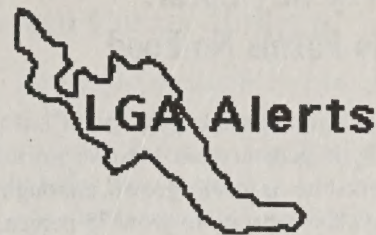
6. (a) What do I have to do to join?—and (b) why should I?

A. (a) Climb Mt Everest, and (b) because it's there.

B. (a) Jump through a burning hoop, and (b) because it's also there.

C. a) Have a song in your heart, and (b) because we like you. We really like you.

D. For question (a), just join! No driver's license, IQ or blood test required. The dues are a mere pittance, just \$25.00 a year. Figure it out! That computes to three whole hours for a single penny! Check out the membership section of the web site at www.lakegarfield.org, print



Be informed
Get the news
Use the LGA web site:
www.lakegarfield.org

the membership form, fill it out with your rank and serial number (or at least your mailing address), and send it with your check to LGA. Or call Janet Cathcart at 413-528-8439 and we'll mail you a membership packet. For the best deal ever, include a \$25 contribution to LakeFest 2003 and we'll mail you the glorious LakeFest 2003 poster (the 2001 and 2002 posters have become collector's items!). And if you forget, don't worry—we'll remind you!

Answers:

1E, 2C, 3E, 4D, 5E and the correct answer to #6 is D. (And don't forget to mail your check. Told you we'd remind you. The mailing address for memberships is: LGA c/o Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, 271 Main St., Suite 3, Great Barrington, MA 01230.)

— Harriet Harvey & Hy Rosen

Peter S. Vallianos Attorney at Law 528-0055

General practice includes real estate purchases, sales, family transfers and transfers in trust, zoning, land use matters, conservation restrictions, landlord-tenant; wills, probate; commercial law.

I will meet with you at your home in Monterey.

Why Buy Local? No Farms No Food

Agricultural experts point out that only 15 percent of the food we buy in the Berkshires is locally grown, although we have the capacity to grow 35 percent of our food supply. Our non-local food, currently 85 percent of what we eat, travels an average distance of 1300 miles. To help redress this geographic imbalance, please consider these reasons to buy local whenever you can.

— *Local food is fresher, tastes better, lasts longer, and is more nutritious than food that travels long distances.* Once you've bought fresh greens from a farmers' market, or straight-from-the-ground carrots at a farm stand, or picked apples at a local orchard, it's hard to go back to supermarket shopping. The greens are livelier, the carrots earthier, and the apples crunchier. And they last longer, too, since they're freshly harvested.

Dominic Palumbo, owner of Moon-in-the-Pond Organic Farm in Sheffield, grows beef, lamb, veal, pork, and the hay that feeds them. "My pigs are out of doors as much as possible. During the summer that means they root and get nutrients and food from a very large outdoor area, where they eat bugs and grubs and roots and acorns. In this way they're completely different from pigs raised on concrete floors in their own manure."

Tom Maynard, owner of Maynard Farms in Ulster Park, New York, sells his produce at the Great Barrington Farmers' Market and enjoys seeing children taste his fruit. "The parents will say, 'Try this peach,' and the kid will say, 'Yuk, I don't want to.' But then the kid takes a bite, and when his eyes light up, I know it's because he's tasting something with a lot of flavor. Maybe it's the first time the kid knew that peaches are sweet and juicy!"

— *Local food provides more varieties, many of them heirloom or unique.* Jim Kelly, owner of Woodside Orchards in Sheffield, has twenty varieties of apple trees, twenty kinds of peach trees, and is now introducing pear trees, as well. "We grow fruit for local consumption, so we can produce a number of hard-to-find varieties that are bred strictly for flavor,



Susan Sellev

Signs of spring: new arrivals at Rawson Brook Farm

not grown for uniformity or the thick skin that you need if you're selling over long distances," says Kelly. "If you want the unique taste, say, of Gravenstein, Smokehouse, or Sansa apples, or Madison, Salem, and Belle of Georgia peaches, you've got to get them locally grown because they just can't travel," he adds.

Jennifer Tessler of Woven Roots Farm in Lee grows only heirloom herbs and vegetables. "Heirloom vegetables have a story to tell," she says, "a history stretching back at least one hundred years. Gourmet chefs love them because they're robust in flavor, very colorful, and fun to work with."

— *Buying local helps support local farmers, who sell directly to individual and retail consumers, making more money*

for themselves. It also provides jobs for local people and keeps money in the community, helping the regional economy.

Dick Tryon of Lowland Farm in Monterey is a past president of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau. "When I was president," Tryon says, "I realized that the future of agriculture in the Berkshires is small farms—farms of five to six acres, even ten to fifteen acres. But we can survive only if we have a retail outlet. We can't sell to supermarkets and make any money. So we need roadside stands and farmers' markets." Tryon has been successful selling his winter squash to local restaurants, even having a soup named for his squash at New Marlborough's Old Inn on the Green. "I like that personal touch," he says, grinning broadly.

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Dominic Palumbo, though, prefers to sell his meat directly to the public at his farm. "I like to sell directly to people, to be able to talk with them about my meat, to give them an opportunity to connect to my farm," he says, "and besides, I make more money selling directly." Palumbo does sell to some chefs, "But it's difficult for me to maintain commercial relations with chefs. After all, there are only so many pork chops on a pig."

Megan Moore, caterer and owner of Moore Fine Foods, buys locally as often as possible. "Buying local might cost me a bit more in terms of money, but the quality is much more controllable, and you can't beat the service."

— *Buying local benefits the environment.* Since many of the local farms are certified organic or are maintained in environmentally-friendly ways, the soil is continuously enriched—not depleted as with single crops and heavy chemical treatment. And buying locally grown food reduces the environmental impact and financial cost to society for long-distance transportation of food.

Moreover, endangered local farms are more likely to survive in an atmosphere that celebrates buying local, thus helping to sustain the open space that gives the Berkshires its unique character. Maintaining the Berkshire landscape encourages the tourist business, an essential component of the Berkshire economy. As Kathy Orlando of the Sheffield Land Trust asks, "Without the Berkshires' landscape attraction, would tourists stay as long as they do, or just go to a concert and leave?"

— *Buying locally helps the local tax base.* Orlando also points out, "Taxes from agricultural land provide the community with net earnings of \$.70 for each tax dollar collected, compared with the average cost to the community of \$1.25 for each tax dollar collected for residential development."

— *Buying local creates a meaningful sense of community, of belonging.* "At a time when we feel politically and socially discontented, I think it's important that we be in touch with our local farming community," says David Carriere, a Tyringham resident who is a member of Indian Line Farm, the community-supported farm in Egremont. Once a week, Carriere goes to Indian Line to pick up his weekly share. "I watched the seasons of the year unfold. The farm gave my food a relationship to the calendar, so the calendar wasn't just something hanging on my wall. I don't think I ever really thought about the fact that the season begins with strawberries, that tomatoes come pretty late in the season, things like that."

Michaël Ballon, owner-chef of Great Barrington's Castle Street Cafe, prefers to buy local because "It's comforting to know where my food comes from. I don't like to buy anonymous food. My policy is 'Don't eat any strangers.'"

— *Buying local is fun.* Ted Dobson, owner of Equinox Farm in Sheffield, an active member of the Sheffield Farmers' Market, says, "I like that market. It's a lot of fun and a nice way to end the week."

Farmers who sell their own products enjoy the contact they have with their customers. They value hearing what

Green Corner Bulletin

Weeds in the lake? It's a very sensitive subject to many but we can all help in many ways. Here's one way: Dim all of your lights around the lake.

Scientists have discovered that the bright lights of urban areas have a severe impact on night-migrating birds, which are observed circling bright lights until they collapse, as well as on the behavior of small invertebrates that rise at night to feed on surface algae in fresh water. As light levels increase, the invertebrates aren't as active, which affects water quality and encourages algae blooms. Nine states have implemented "dark sky" provisions in response, and many more may soon follow.

Many of us have moved from cities to Monterey and are accustomed to lights all around us at night. If the information above had not been shared with me, I wouldn't have known. A neighbor told me that Monterey actually won an award once for the town that used the least amount of electricity. I believe the video on this is in the Monterey Library for anyone interested.

— June Rochedieu

people think of their products, and often develop friendships with regulars. The customers, in turn, relish being able to talk with the grower about how the food is grown or interesting ways to cook what they're buying.

And how else, unless you buy locally, could you possibly read a quotation from Jane Austen on your egg carton? Check out the Gould Farm egg carton, which informs you, "An egg boiled very soft is not unwholesome."

— Laurily Epstein

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Senator Says Berkshire Regional Competitiveness Council

Over the past several years, the term "New Economy" has been used in media reports, economic forums, and a host of other venues. Like the boom and bust of the dot-com industry, the progression to a new economic order has not always been smooth. As the Berkshires transition from a manufacturing-based economy to one in which ideas and technology play an increasingly important role, we are witnessing the emergence of a New Economy that has tremendous potential for businesses, educators, workers, and residents.

In an effort to better coordinate and identify regional economic opportunities, the Berkshire Regional Competitiveness Council recently convened its inaugural meeting. The council consists of representatives from business, labor, government, education, tourism, and other regional interests. I was pleased that Governor Romney and his economic team came to Pittsfield to participate in what I hope is a successful effort to advance the region's vitality. While I may not always agree with the policies put forward by the administration, I am anxious to work with the Governor to promote this and other worthy initiatives.

A report produced by the Department of Economic Development, with assistance from the UMass Donahue Institute, identifies six regions across the Commonwealth that have unique economic challenges and opportunities. Competitiveness councils have been established for each of these regions, and will meet on a quarterly basis. The report, "Toward a New Prosperity: Building Regional Competitiveness Across the Commonwealth," provides insights to the Berkshires that could have profound impacts on the direction we take in terms of economic development and its relation to the high quality of life that we all want and deserve.

The Berkshire region, specifically Great Barrington, Pittsfield and North Adams, gained notoriety in the early part of the last century for the development of the electric transformer. This led to major economic gains in the county, with

literally thousands of new employees clocking in on a daily basis at places such as General Electric and Sprague Electric, thereby providing for their families and at the same time contributing to the community. However, this manufacturing boom was not to last, and as a result the economic and demographic picture was dramatically altered.

In response to this economic shake-up, the regional export sector is working to replace the lost jobs in other fields. "Toward a New Prosperity" notes several clusters—information technology, knowledge creation, financial services, health care, travel and tourism, and traditional manufacturing—that will play a critical role in reestablishing the long-term economic growth in the Berkshires. Many of these segments rely on an educated workforce that can readily adapt to an evolving marketplace. Others are based on the overall appeal of the region, which is why we need to continue our efforts to preserve the environment and the strong sense of community that is truly unique.

In order to realize our potential, we must be willing to work with such entities as the Berkshire Regional Competitiveness Council to address a range of challenges along the way. Significantly, the region's population continues to decline, mostly as a result of the younger generation leaving to pursue opportunities elsewhere. We must address affordable housing, transportation access, and workforce training in order to retain our workers and attract new ones.

The Berkshires have significant core strengths that can be built upon to attract young professionals and families in order to fuel the economy in technology and tourism. We have built several new schools—from Williamstown to Sheffield—in the past years to ensure the education of our children. Similarly, expansion of the Pittsfield Municipal Airport and projects like Berkshire Connect make the region more attractive for technology and other sectors to create a center in the Berkshires.

The economic growth will also be enhanced by our dedication to the environment and cultural enrichment. Lakes, bike trails, skiing, and hiking provide recreation opportunities that are rival to none in Massachusetts. Cultural endeavors—Tanglewood, MASS MoCA, and Jacob's Pillow to name just a few—enrich the community and broaden our appeal. With such an array of cultural, natural, and recreational treasures, the Berkshires are well positioned to achieve sustained growth in the tourism industry.

I am encouraged to have the opportunity to work with Berkshire Regional Competitiveness Council on long-term economic solutions for the Berkshires. New challenges will present themselves in the coming months and years, yet I am confident that by building on our existing resources and working together we will overcome these obstacles and enjoy the benefits of a New Economy.

— State Sen. Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.



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Spring

*It is spring:
everywhere secret wells
of love
are filling up with winter's thaw*

*old people smile with gentle reasons
feeling good wood of benches
grow warm, rough, reassuring
of perhaps another full year's seasons*

*children glory again:
bare arms, necks, legs —
drowsy air is opening petals*

*babies wince, sneeze in sunlight
fuss with their sucking
impatient to grow*

*I have not mentioned scholars or lovers
though we were both
yet as I read my book
I still read your sleeping face
hear your soft breath*

*now mind opens like a flower
ineluctably to the sun of wisdom
and I learn from my old heart
undreamt of things:
this renascence of wells
and somewhere the sound of a flute
sparkles toccatas all over me
making me glow the more
which brings
such gratitude for all my springs.*

— A. O. Howell



Last instructions:1998

*For days now
you have been laboring
over your last instructions:
our mortal eschatology -
the fine print of your
handwriting
lists what I am to do
and how and when and who
and the children of which*

*you are planning it all
as you would
the garden
as if it were the most natural
thing in the world to die
and so it is!
I have not thanked you
for this ultimate concern*

*Dear, for now, let me carry
the tender burden
of my unshed tears
they could just as well be yours!*

— A. O. Howell

Springtime and Sugarhouse Blues

This was the year, 2003, when we kept saying, "Spring has to come some-time . . ." The snow got deeper, the nights colder, and still the calendar marched forward into March. Days lengthened, little weeds grew in the pots with the houseplants. In our house this year we took on three feral kittens. They are gangly adolescents now, little juvenile delinquents dearly loved and suffered by us. The more elegant and drapery houseplants have been shredded in the name of youthful self-entertainment, giving us a new appreciation for those botanical individuals in whom natural selection has bred protective thorns. Suddenly the cacti and the crown of thorns are looking sensible and unscathed. In the next generation of fortuitous, an opportunistic weed from the compost pile, a sorrel, has burgeoned under the protective and pointy shadow of our potted thorn plant. Responding to longer days, the sorrel has grown strong and tall, like the kittens, and is now blooming and producing seedpods. My mother used to say that in her childhood these long green pods were called "pickles" because of their tart flavor. I have been passing this folklore along for decades to Berkshires kids who, like our kittens, enjoy chomping on plants. I think the "pickles" tradition comes from the North Carolina branch of the family, but it is by now a good old New England notion, at least among the graduates of my nature walks.

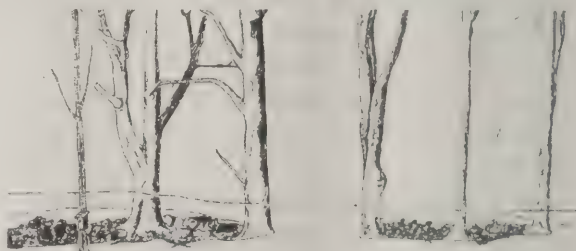
In our panoply of local traditions we have "pickles" for sour and maple sugar for sweet. The human tongue loves them both (especially at the same time, maybe with a little salt), and we can ease them

out of the ground, right here in Monterey, just like the olden days. There is such a comfort in olden things, passed along from earlier times when we weren't around but when, we feel sure, life was better. People had more time back then to smell the daisies, memorize poetry, sew their own clothes. Somehow we have gotten caught up in such a rush that it's all we can do to drive through the ATM and then drive through the Fast Food Place as we check the list and the gas gauge and the clock on the dash. Hanging onto a few olden things helps us keep our balance. We treasure the "pickles" in the weed patch and our spring ritual in the sugarhouse.

The ritual goes like this: watch the weather forecast, check the supplies. Don't get too excited by that first January thaw—experience says we'll freeze up and any sap that sits in the buckets will turn to ice and pop the seams. How many times have we patched those old buckets? They were used when we got them twenty-five years ago and some of them leaked then. Sometimes we'd go out to "gather the buckets" and find icicles hanging from the empties with the sprung seams. Sometimes on a warm day we'd find, on the same tree, one bucket full to the brim and another completely empty with a melt-hole in the snow under it, from the steady dripping.

Finally the long-range forecast says it is time to mobilize. We head out into the woods with tubing and buckets. This year we went on snowshoes, and there is often some repair work to be done on them before we can even start. We have olden snowshoes, with leather bindings and rawhide lacing, tasty to mice toward the end of a hard winter. We tapped out this year later than ever before. The sap was sweet, though, and I put my tongue against the fabulous rough bark to tickle my sweet buds with the sparkling water, 2 percent sucrose. I am human, I love sweet.

The snowbanks along our road were so big we decided not to haul buckets this



year. Buckets are one of the best parts of the olden practice of sugaring. They provide the music, the random plink-plonk of the sugarbush. Most years we are out there hammering in the metal spiles like village smithies, hearing that first plinking of sap hitting the steel bottoms, at the same time various woodpeckers are drumming on their sounding posts. There is

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also the chickadee spring song and the occasional deep “gong” of a raven. It is a spare concert, timeless traditional music that is at the same time as avant-garde as John Cage.

There has been no plink-plonk for us this year, just the tubing. It is bright green and you can watch the sap travel through it like part of some high-tech fish tank or science project. In the end we guide it downhill to our sugarhouse and put heat under it, the old-fashioned way. The wood we burn there is poplar, hemlock, pine. This will burn pretty hot if it is dry enough and receives a good draft, but we consider it “sugarhouse wood” and wouldn’t be bringing it to the house woodshed. Like olden folks, we heat our house solely with wood, and like them we pay close attention to the kind of wood we bother to cut and split and haul into the house. It has to be rich in BTU’s to make it into our house stove.

We spent a few days in the sugarhouse this year, making a record low crop of about 20 gallons of syrup. In our own olden days, we boiled for six weeks and made 150 gallons. The first run was always very light and fancy, the kind that made the old time sugarmakers proud. By the end of the season the syrup we made would be dark. The sap would get cloudy and “buddy,” with a new smell and an off taste. This was always the signal for us to shut down.

This year we got the signal after less than a week of run. It is over for us

already. The trees have quit sending the sugar up and down and are moving on to the serious business of feeding the buds, soon to bloom and leaf out in what looks to be the shortest sugar season we’ve seen in twenty-nine years of boiling.

Is this some other kind of signal, a warning, a planet in trouble? As a scientist I wouldn’t want to say without more data. All I know for sure is it is time to clean up, do a little bottling, and plant the peas. If I am not too olden to remember, or at least to take a few notes, I hope next year I’ll put out some buckets no matter how deep the snow is. There is an old blues song: “You don’t miss your water, miss your water, miss your water, ’til your well run dry.”

— Bonner J. McAllester



How Is It Made?

Cultural Council Seeks Artists

The Monterey Cultural Council is seeking applications from local artists and artisans for a juried art event to be titled “How Is It Made?” With the idea of creating an educational opportunity for the community, we envision a broad range of artistic representation, from fine arts to hand craftsmanship. Thus the focus of the event will be on individual demonstrations of process and technique in addition to display and sales. Accepted artists will be expected to be prepared to discuss “how they do what they do” with the public in order to deepen everyone’s appreciation for the skill, talent, and creative energy involved in producing the art work.

The event will be held at the Monterey Firehouse Pavilion on Saturday, August 30, 2003, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. No entrance fee is required nor commissions on sales charged. The application deadline for the final round of jurying is May 10; the number of participants will be limited, so be sure to apply now. For applications visit or call the Monterey Town Offices at 413-528-1443.

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Entranceway to Fernway Camp, where Nina Tryon sold ice cream to campers

Tea Room Tales

A Day in the Life of a Fernway Camp Counselor: The Helen Moorey (Bodnar) Story

After answering an ad found on the bulletin board at Emerson College and journeying all the way from Boston to Westchester County, New York, to be personally interviewed by Dr. Nathaniel Holmes Ives, Helen Moorey got the job!

For the next three glorious summers, 1935-7, Helen was the counselor in charge of "dramatics" at prestigious Fernway Camp for girls, here in Monterey. Counselors were selected not only for their unique expertise, but for their potential as good role models for the "city-

bred" girls they would hopefully influence. Camp was divided into eleven bungalows, with one counselor assigned to each home of eight campers, ages seven to eighteen, for the summer.

Fernway's stated mission was to "bring out the best qualities in every camp girl," to provide a "social education" which included "self reliance," "teamwork," and good, competitive "sportsmanship." The brochure promised prospective parents that under the personal supervision of Dr. and Mrs. Ives a summer at Fernway (costing \$300) would be an "opportunity for your daughter to perfect herself in horseback riding, golf, swimming and tennis which are now recognized as essential accomplishments in modern social life." Applicants without "references both social and financial" need not apply."

Fernway Camp on Lake Garfield was established by Ives in 1922 and sat on 125 richly diverse acres of woodland, marsh,

meadow, and lake front. It sprawled along both sides of Hupi Road just down mountain from Elephant Rock, and included much of what is now Hupi Woods Circle.

Camp life in July and August was extremely demanding. Days and evenings were so packed with planned activities that a "rest period" of an hour each afternoon was mandatory for all.

In a single week campers would take to the lake for instruction in all water sports, from canoeing and rowing, to swimming, diving, and lifesaving (a subject taken very seriously by the directors). Additionally, the girls learned tennis, golf,



Counselor Helen Moorey (seated left)

and "golf etiquette," and dancing everything from folk to tap to "natural dancing" (Isadore Duncan/Mary Wigman style). There was a rifle range, an archery range, and a riding ring for beginners. Many hours were spent on "short rambles in the woods" identifying "ferns, flowers and birds," and of course there was the usual arts and crafts shop.

Fernway's distinctive green and white bloomer/blouse uniform could be

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easily spotted both in town and throughout the Berkshires during the season. Certainly groups of campers frequented Tryon's Tea Room as they passed through town en route to hikes and outings off property. But two days a week the Tea Room came to them as well. Though the brochure brags of the biweekly visit from "the ice cream man," in fact it was the ice cream woman, namely Nina Tryon, who dutifully packed up her "flivver" (old car) with tubs of ice cream and twice weekly rode up to camp, parked in the shade at the entranceway, and doled out cones to the entire camp community. Sometimes Wallace or nephew Ray would ride along to help.

At Fernway even the horses had a pedigree, coming as they did each summer, from the Smith College stables of Northampton. They ate and slept in a large gray barn (still in existence today) across the road from "Stepping Stones," the Ives family residence (#160 Hupi Road, now owned by the Edelmans). The brochure described many "breakfast and supper rides" in Monterey and beyond where "the trails are well marked and free from all dangerous underbrush, winding through the cool, verdant valleys and rising gently over the undulating hills of the far flung countryside." It was clear that Camp Fernway was extremely proud of its riding program.

However for Helen the most rewarding and meaningful time of day was always "the time between supper and the quiet gong (i.e., 9 p.m.) . . . devoted to dramatics, singing and 'surprises.'" These plays and music/dance performances took



Fernway Camp's swimming area at Lake Garfield

place either on a stage in the center building, or outside, but always under her special leadership.

Once the day was finally done, even students from the very best schools craved time for themselves, time away from the rigors and the responsibilities of others, and time away from the kindly but ever watchful gaze of the Iveses. Often after hours, Helen and her peers would begin that long steep and dark walk into town. Hupi Road was a very narrow, twisting, single-lane dirt road that turned sharply in places, passed over Peppermint Brook, joined with old Tyringham Road, wound along the lake, and finally emptied into the village. There Tryon's Tea Room stood open and waiting for late-nighters

such as these. Here counselors, townies, cottage folk, and art students could kick back, meet and talk together, dance, snack, and socialize. Such was summer life here in Monterey in the 1930s.

— Eileen Lawlor

Oral history and artifacts given by Helen Moorey Bodnar and John and Stella Bodnar, with additional information supplied by Ray Tryon. If you have a tea room tale and would be willing to be interviewed as part of this ongoing oral history project, please call Eileen at 528-7916.

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The Thread of the Story

Those Wild Red Roses

Donna Cawthorne lives in the desert, but I met her in Maine. We were both guests at a small B&B on the rocky coast of the Schoodic Peninsula. Each of us had arrived at breakfast that first morning with a quilting project to work on in that interim time between the end of the meal and when the fog burned off.

We stitched and chatted, both that morning and later in the week. We'd discussed quilts, families, travels, beliefs, more travels, raved about the food; I don't think we shared recipes! But we did discuss a project dear to Donna's heart: a quilt that would interpret her zodiac sign, Sagittarius.

One late-winter morning, a letter arrived from Donna, bursting with news. She'd found the perfect roses for her quilt, and enclosed a pattern copied from a magazine. It showed machine-appliqued roses tumbling along a white picket fence. "Of course," she wrote, "mine's a Sagittarius quilt, so I won't have the fence in it. You know how much I hate to be confined!"

The copy she'd made was dark, too dark for the inner rose petals to have much definition. Still, I could tell that these roses were exactly what I had been

looking for, too. Perfect, except too dark to use. I made up my mind to track down that magazine.

"Have all of you seen this?" Barbara Tryon asked innocently that afternoon when the Monterey Piecemakers gathered at her house. She held up the March/April issue of *Better Homes & Gardens American Patchwork & Quilting*. The cover showed a marvelous, very familiar image: Donna's roses!

I pounced on Barbara's newly-arrived quilting magazine before she had time to read it herself. I wasn't even embarrassed enough to not take it home.

I kept it until the next Sunday. By that time I had two deep-red silk roses, and I was busy embroidering the thin silk to fabric stabilizer with buttonhole stitches. Soon they had their yellow French knot



centers, and outline stitch petal lines. The project I am using them for won't have a picket fence in it, either, but Janet Pittman's roses translate perfectly into the gift I'm making. But more about that when it's done.

— MaryKate Jordan

HOW IS IT MADE?

Saturday, August 30, 2003
at the Monterey Fire House
Pavilion

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

No entrance fee required
Number of participants limited

*The Monterey Cultural Council
is seeking applications from local
Artists and Artisans for a juried art
event titled "HOW IS IT MADE?"*

*The focus of the event will be on
individual demonstrations of process
and technique, with sales permitted.*

APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR FINAL
ROUND OF JURYING MAY10, 2003

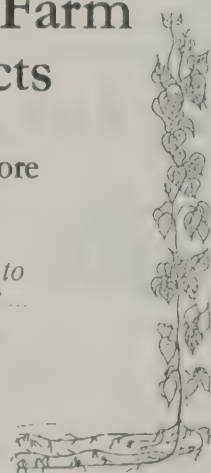
For applications call or stop by the
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A Sleeping Democracy Awakens

The clarion call that awakened me from my civic slumber occurred on September 11, 2001. For many, the American dream transformed into a living nightmare in the fire, smoke, and blood on that dark day. In the horror of that event, a call sounded from the very depths of my soul. *Get off the couch and into social action. Democracy awaits your contribution and your service. Humanity is at a crossroads. Peace is your destiny.*

"The horizon leans forward, offering you space to place new steps of change" (Maya Angelou).

My commitment and passion to this path of civil responsibility has been challenging and joyful. It also has filled me with the realization that an individual can make a difference and that individuals working collectively can make an enormous difference. Yugoslavia's Slobadan Milosivich, undaunted by massive NATO bombing, was overthrown by an organized and peaceful hoard of young people.

The complacency of my past is now contrasted by these regular activities:

- Writing letters and making phone calls to elected officials.
- Attending spirited community meetings on how to affect change.
- Staying informed in local, national, and international affairs through a cross section of media outlets.

- Attending street demonstrations, including Washington on January 18.

- Being willing to have healthy dialogue with people with opposing views.

- Observing a minute of silence for peace at noon daily.

- Using the internet to retrieve information and network social action projects.

- Becoming a United Nations representative for a nongovernmental organization named Pathways to Peace (www.PathwaysToPeace.org). This appointment gives me a voice in the UN system as well as access to information, people, and points of view generally not available to mainstream America. For more information go to www.un.org/partners/civil_society/home.htm.

My journey from the comfort of my couch into social action has buoyed my hope in the future of humanity. I am now aware that there is a huge segment of humanity working for peace, justice, environmental health, and the elimination of poverty and other social ills. My worldview has a more positive outlook in comparison to the corporate media spin heard on the news channels. Yes, our civilization is faced with huge challenges but our human spirit is rising up to meet them. The very existence of a world body, like the UN, dedicated to peace and security for all, is a beacon of hope for humanity.

Invitation to the Artistic Community

Throughout human history, artists of all kinds, such as musicians, actors,

writers, poets, painters, and others have had a profound influence in shaping our culture and society. So now, during these crucial times, I invite those of you who are gifted with an artist's heart/mind to step forward or go to your next level with your craft to support the emerging culture of peace. The artistic community fueled the cultural revolution of the 1960s and its influence is still alive and rocking today. The songs "Imagine" and "Give Peace a Chance" by the Beatles and John Lennon came out of that period. You too can make a difference!

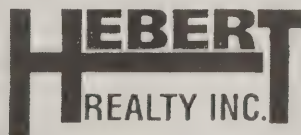
A focal point for your artful contribution could be celebrating the next United Nations International Day of Peace on **September 21, 2003**.

"The General Assembly of the United Nations, in resolution 55/282, of September 7, 2001, decided that, beginning in 2002, the International Day of Peace should be observed on September 21 each year. The Assembly declared that the day be observed as a day of global cease-fire and nonviolence, an invitation to all nations and people to honor a cessation of hostilities during the day. It invited all member states, organizations of the United Nations system, regional and nongovernmental organizations and individuals to commemorate the day in an appropriate manner, including through education and public awareness, and to cooperate with the United Nations in establishing a global cease-fire."

A simple act: Take a minute for peace. I am advocating that we take a minute of silence for peace each day at noon local time. I believe that this simple act can have a profound effect in shifting the mass consciousness of people around the world toward creating a more peaceful existence. Remember the one hundredth monkey story?

Many groups internationally are already practicing this minute of peace so it links you each day in a subtle way with other dedicated peacemakers around the planet. Also, out of this daily minute of silence may come inspiration for other actions you can take to create a more peaceful and secure world for all beings. It is time.

— Michael Johnson



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Notes from Greenhaven Farm "You Guys are Great!"

Rural towns have a reputation for being neighborly; you know, folks watching out for each other. Here at Greenhaven Farm we are richly blessed with the best neighbors imaginable. Recently an ash tree blew down in our yard and landed on an old apple tree causing what's known as a "dead fall." Without being asked, Mark Amstead, who lives behind us, said he would be over with his big forklift to set it safely on the ground. He did it promptly too.

Our nearest neighbor, no doubt the most valuable, is in fact the Monterey Firehouse. Several members of the company also live within shouting distance: Del Martin and the Sheridan and Amstead brothers to name the closest. Can you imagine a greater feeling of security? We can't imagine that people in Great Barrington don't want a firehouse in their neighborhood, but that's another story. It is quite a sight when five or six pickup trucks almost silently converge on the firehouse within moments of each other from three directions, and drive off without sirens, horns, or big hullabaloo. Thus we didn't hear them roll out on Monday, March 3, but were surprised, while walking the dog around noon, by an avalanche of press pulling into Foxhill Road.

Two men getting out of a Connecticut car told us a small plane had crashed nearby and survivors were spotted from

the air. They also showed us their useless cell phone exclaiming that at least the people that drive them crazy (their employer presumably) wouldn't be after them. Within a short time a dozen huge trucks with satellite dishes rolled in. The state police had ordered the press to assemble here. Many of the press (with self-serving interests) claimed the rescue would have occurred sooner if Monterey had cell phone service.

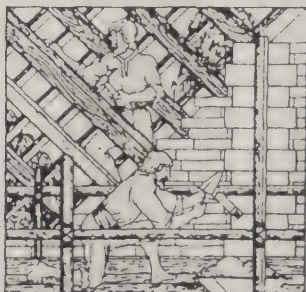
The search quickly became a dramatic rescue operation, as has been very extensively reported nationwide. The crash occurred around 7 p.m. Sunday evening on the side of Mount Wilcox during one of the coldest, windiest nights of this very cold and windy winter. We had -5 degrees at 6 a.m. Monday at our house, and temperatures stayed in the single digits all day. The high wind kept aircraft out of the search until around noon. The miracle was that four of the seven passengers survived the crash and the exposure. Paramedics from New York dropped down from their helicopter and quickly sent two boys up and off to the Albany Medical Center. The normal role of airborne paramedics is to transport victims to a trauma center after the ground rescuers have carefully extracted them from the wreckage. The roles were reversed in this case.

Although the helicopter crew was first on the scene, they had no tools to

work with. The Monterey crew and members of other local fire departments marshalled snowmobiles to carry themselves with a minimum of equipment into the woods where snow was hip deep. Captain Del Martin took charge of the site and asked the paramedics what they needed. "Open up the plane so we can get them out," they said. So, using only hand tools, they did just that. "You guys are great!" said the paramedics. Praise from one's peers who know true professionalism when they see it is the sweetest.

A third boy was pulled up into a helicopter and rushed to Albany. The pilot, father of the family, was taken by snowmobile sled down to Benedict Pond where another helicopter took him to Fairview Hospital. He died that evening, but the three boys are recovering and are out of mortal danger as we write this.

The next day there was a news conference with the rescuers present for the press to hear their story. Just prior to its start we overheard one reporter tell another that he was a stringer for the *Boston Globe*. Looking at each other, we decided, that's us! We're stringers for the *Monterey News*! So in we went with our notebooks in hand. We were proud to see our neighbors lined up behind the microphones set before a slew of TV cameras. They were dressed in "civvies," work clothes with torn knees and scuffed up boots.



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We observed and/or later learned some things not very clearly reported by the press. First the cell phone issue mentioned earlier was not critical to the rescue. No phone company would think it worth while to locate a tower in that remote area capable of reaching into the ravine where the crash site was. The helicopter that spotted the crash first had to gain altitude (get out of the ravine) to make radio contact. The victims had no idea where they were so they couldn't have guided the rescue effort either.

The rescuers were not hampered by poor radio contact; they didn't need outside parties to tell them what to do. They train for these circumstances and their skillful performance showed it. Secondly, out of respect for the victims, rescuers will not describe a gruesome scene, nor does such a scene deter them from responding immediately with all the skill and determination they have. Thirdly, although widely reported, the "Jaws-of-Life" were not used, only hand tools, including a battery operated reciprocal saw. Lastly, the State Police apparently had some difficulty relinquishing control when a search mission became a rescue mission. In a bureaucratic world, control is very important, but fortunately the Monterey rescue team knew the victims were their first priority. We should be most proud of them for that kind of dedication.

Weather Report (from London)

Today is March 1st and the weather is lovely. A balmy 65 degrees, the daffodils are coming up and everything is green. That's it; my gloating is done for the year. Because in actuality this is the only time, on an annual basis, that I can call friends and family in the U.S. to compare weather notes and not come away depressed.

You have probably heard all the stories of the rainy capital of Europe; London; where the skies are permanently a dull grey, it rains almost every day and one never leaves the house at any time of year without an umbrella. On and on it goes . . .

Our last observation came from talking to our firemen about their jobs as members of the Monterey Fire Company. They train continuously and rigorously in order to prepare themselves for any kind of crisis or emergency. They appreciate and respect each other and know they can count on each other to do the right thing no matter how difficult. Who could ask for better neighbors than these?

— Sally & Steve Pullen

Well . . . it's all true! The weather, as any cabbie will tell you, is diabolical. A two-day summer is not entirely a joke, and for all of you who've seen sun-scorched Britons on holiday, be compassionate, we just don't "do" sun very well because we don't generally have much of it. From 2000–2002 we experienced the longest period of uninterrupted rain in recorded history; it rained everyday for almost two years! Now talk about cabin fever.

This has been, shall we say, one heck of a winter in the Northeastern United States. My daily bulletins come from New York, New Jersey, and Monterey (thank you Mark Makuc). These tell of snow, snow, cold, and more snow. Happy people at Butternut no doubt, but for the rest of the world enough already!

But take heart because spring is not far away and then the weather will be wonderful and stay wonderful for several months when it rolls into a beautiful autumn. And give a thought to your Anglo cousins when our lovely spring melts into rain, dull skies, and more rain.

Did I mention that the daffodils are in bloom?

— Christa Lindsay

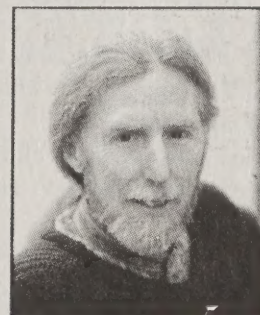
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Tom Rosenthal

Cody Rosenthal celebrates the end of winter high over the Berkshires.

Cameron King Wins Ski Race

Cameron King of Beartown Mountain Road placed first in the intermediate division of the skiing portion of the recent national paraskiing competition at Hunter Mountain. The competition consists of two events, skydiving for accuracy and a giant slalom ski race. Competitors in the skydiving portion jump from a helicopter at 3,000 feet, free fall for a time, and then try to land on a target. Cameron did not place in the jump, but won the skiing event.

Cameron is the son of Beth and Al King, and grandson of Alice O. Howell.

Community Supper April 9

The April community supper will be featuring local writers (that's you) reading from their work. This was one of the most popular dinner programs last year, thanks to the abundance of local talent.

It's still not too late to sign up to read something of your own—just call Glynis Oliver or Will Marsh at 528-4347.

The date to remember is April 9, 6 p.m., in the Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. Please come; all are invited. As usual, bring some food to share and your silverware and plates. Delicious food, great desserts, good cheer!

Waste Paint and Motor Oil Collections for April & May

Residents of Monterey and the other towns that form the South Berkshire Household Hazardous Waste Collaborative may bring used motor oil and oil-based paints to the locations listed below. Acceptable materials are unwanted oil paint, stains, paint thinners, and turpentine, as well as used motor oil. Preregistration is required by calling the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) at 445-4556 or 800-238-1221, or e-mail jamiec@cetonline.org.

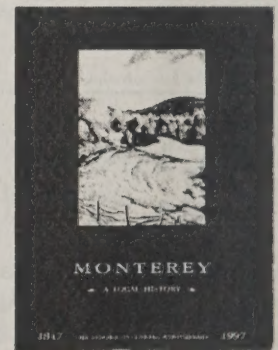
Wednesday, April 30, 4–7 p.m., Great Barrington: Transfer Station, Rt. 7 across from Monument Mountain High School.

Saturday, May 10, 9–11 a.m., Otis Transfer Station, West Center Road.

Saturday, May 17, 9–11 a.m., Lenox: Department of Public Works, 275 Main St./Route 7A, across from Mass-Highway offices.

Latex paint will not be collected at any of these events. Dried latex paint can be disposed of with regular trash.

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Edited by Peter Murkett

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Calendar

Every Monday (except holidays):

Selectboard meeting, 8:30 a.m.-12 noon, Town Offices.

Tuesday, April 1: Annual *Monterey News* board meeting, Acapulco.

Sunday, April 6:

Daylight Savings Time begins.

Summer hours go into effect at Monterey

Transfer Station (Sundays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Wednesdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.; Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.)

Saturday, April 5: Sandisfield Historical Society spring dance, "The Spring Fling," 8 p.m.-midnight, Fire House #2. Admission \$10 for adults, \$5 for children; includes Dan Daniel's Country Western Band, a light buffet, and refreshments. Proceeds to benefit the Meeting House Extension. Reservations appreciated. Call Norton Fletcher for information, 413-258-4520.

Wednesday, April 9:

Monterey Food Co-op order distribution and pickup, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Meetinghouse basement.

Community Dinner, 6 p.m. Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. After dinner local writers will read from their work.

Thursday, April 10: Free blood pressure clinic, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Town Hall, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

Sunday, April 13: Slide presentation and lecture by artist Walton Ford, Southern Berkshire Community Center (15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington). Ford is a naturalist and watercolorist working in the grand tradition of such legendary nature painters as John James Audubon. Sponsored by Sheffield Art League. SAL members free; public welcome at \$5.00 entrance fee.

Wednesday, April 16: Full Moon

Thursday, April 17: First day of Pass-over

Saturday, April 19: Contra dance, 8 p.m., Lenox Community Center. Music by Monterey band Bottom of the Bucket.

Sunday, April 20: Easter Sunday. Easter egg hunt, 1 p.m., Library lawn, for children ten years and under. Sponsored by Monterey Coffee Club.

Free Child Care to Be Provided During Town Meeting

The Town of Monterey is pleased to announce it will provide free child care during the annual town meeting on Saturday, May 3, 2003, from 9:15 a.m. until the end of the meeting.

The Southern Berkshire YMCA will provide staff and quality care for children ages two and older on site, at the firehouse and/or pavilion.

Please call SBYMCA at 528-YMCA (9622) by April 25th if you have any questions and/or to preregister your child(ren). This will help determine the number of staff members needed.

Tuesday, April 22: Last day to register to vote in May 3rd town election; mail-in forms available at post office.

Friday, April 25:

Informational town Meeting, 7 p.m., Monterey Firehouse.

New England Boiled Dinner, 5-7 p.m., Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. Tickets: adults \$8, children \$4; available from Linda Thorpe, 528-2164, and Theresa Amstead, 528-1853. All proceed to benefit New Marlborough Central School Playground Fund. Sponsored by Monterey Coffee Club.

Saturday, April 26:

Church Coffee House, 7 p.m., Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. Entertainment by The Hunger Mountain Boys. See p. 8.

Square and contra dancing, 8:30-11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Gail Griffith. All dances are taught, beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments at intermission. Adults \$6, children \$3. Information 528-9385.

Saturday, Sunday, April 25 & 26: Earth Day celebration, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Berkshire Fish Hatchery, Hatchery (River) Road, New Marlborough. Family activities; see p. 8 for detailed schedule.

Saturday, May 3: Annual town meeting and town election, 9:30 a.m., Monterey Firehouse.

The Observer

February 26-March 25

High temp. (3/18)	65°
Low temp. (3/7)	-11°
Avg. high temp.	38.5°
Avg. low temp.	12.2°
Avg. temp.	25.5°
Total precipitation	
(rain and melted snow)	2.34"
Snowfall	11.5"
Precipitation occurred on 9 days.	

Contributors

We are grateful to the following for recent contributions to the *News*.

Anne Vickerman



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Contributions from local artists this month:
Pat Arnow, pp. 3, 23; Bonner McAllester, pp. 14, 15;
Glynis Oliver, pp. 4, 13.

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